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**BOOK REVIEW**

**Kurian Kachappilly, CMI, ed.** *Process, Religion and Society*, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2009, Pages: 286, ISBN-978-81-89958-39-8

This is the first volume of Dharmaram Process Series, which contains the proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Whitehead Conference on "Process, Religion and Society," jointly organised by the postgraduate Department of Philosophy, Christ University and the Faculty of Philosophy, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, from January 05-09, 2009. The entire book is divided mainly into two sections: section one deals with the keynote papers and section two deals with Whitehead and Sciences.

The first section of the book contains eight keynote papers. The first chapter is "Introduction: Process, Religion and Society" by Dr Kurian Kachappilly. It gives a general introduction to the papers. The second paper is "Process, Religion and Society" by Dr John B. Cobb. He explains the process philosophy and connects the term with religion and society. "God-World Polarity: A Paradigm for Reconciliation" is the third paper of this section by Dr Augustine Thottakara. Through this paper he gives expression to an Indian ethos and an Indian interpretation of process philosophy. Dr Philip Clayton in his paper titled "God beyond Orthodoxy: Process Theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" presents a model of process theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He very briefly explains the nine theses for the process theology. Dr Herman F. Greene explains the process philosophy of Whitehead in terms of cosmology and civilization in his paper "Whitehead, Cosmology and Civilization." Civilization is not static. There are two choices for civilization according to Whitehead, advance or decadence. Dr Zhihe Wang in his "The Second Handshake: Constructive Postmodernism in China Today," explains the emergence of constructive postmodernism in China. He also gives an account of the successful constructive postmodernism in China. "Whitehead and Higher Education: Transformation Through Process" is the next paper presented by Dr Thomas Chathamparambil. He emphasises the need of the process in higher education. For higher education to rise to the challenges of the times, the onus will rest on university leaders to use process with a great deal of dynamism to stimulate and transform students, and to set up structural adjustment in governance to make process relevant today. The final paper in this section is "Subjectivity and Truth" by Dr Jason Brown.

The second section consists of seven chapters under the main heading Whitehead and Sciences. The first chapter is an introduction by Dr Babu Thaliath and Dr Kurian Kachappilly. It gives a fitting introduction to Whitehead and sciences. The next chapter is "The One Mind Model of

Quantum Reality: Whitehead, Theories of Mind, and Evolution” by Dr Mark Germiné. In the modern world of evolution where the place of God is doubted, the author is arguing that evolution does not exclude the agency of God, but, in fact, requires God. Further he goes on explaining the Whiteheadian Quantum Mind Theory. Whitehead introduces God into his metaphysics because, fundamentally, he needed God to complete it. Thus the main section on God is at the end of *Process and Reality*. “Whitehead and Grof: Resolving the Ontological ambiguity of Jung’s Archetypes Metaphysically and Practically” by Dr Leonard Gibson is another chapter which resolves criticism about ontological ambiguity concerning Jung’s archetypes by Whitehead’s metaphysics and Stanislav Grof’s perinatal theory concerning psychological discoveries about the human birth process. Dr Luke George in his paper “Whitehead and Particle – Wave Duality: A Critical Study from the perspective of System Philosophy” examines the essential features of the rival positions of Whitehead and Einstein with regard to space – time relativity. Their difference has a philosophical counterpart in the conflict between instrumentalism and scientific realism.

The later part of this paper introduces the theory of dual reality, which forms the core of System Philosophy, which can synthesize instrumentalism and scientific realism. Dr Meera Chakravorty makes an inquiry into time scientifically in the next paper under the heading “An Inquiry into Time.” “The Minkowskian Background of Whitehead’s Theory of Gravitation” by Dr Ronny Desmet, is a paper which sees the Minkowskian background of Whitehead’s theory of gravitation. The Author focuses on Whitehead’s involvement with relativity during the London period of his professional career. Whitehead’s alternative theory of gravitation is a Minkowski background – dependent theory of gravity, both in the historical sense of being rooted in a Minkowskian context, and in the technical sense of describing the gravitational field against a Minkowskian space – time background. Whitehead invented a brain science of emotions using terms that obscured rather than explained his new creation is explained by Dr Thandeka Thandeka under the title “Whitehead’s Brain Science of Emotions.” This book will definitely help philosophers in general and process philosophers in particular to understand and appreciate Whitehead in a deeper manner as a philosopher and scientist.

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